New Year New Me

"You've redecorated!"

TIM FOLEY
JAN 20, 2025

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Hullo and welcome to my revamped newsletter for all my hot scribbling gossip. I'll be talking about my audio work as usual... but also making space for my theatre work too, and anything else I've got textually cooking.

Happy 2025! I started this year in the world's coldest rehearsal room and I have been slowly defrosting ever since. I have a sickening amount of positivity for this year, partially because I have lots of fun new things to do, and partially because I have the world's cutest dog by my writing desk at all times.

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Out This Month - TOM AND DOGS AND PAUL AND MONKS

I have two stories in January's CLASSIC DOCTORS, NEW MONSTERS audio box-set and they could not be more different. But let's stare in wonder at the beautiful cover

for a moment. Art by Rafe Wallbank.

FULL CAST AUDIO DRAMA STARRING TOM BAKER, SYLVESTER McCOY, PAUL McGANN, MICHAEL TROUGHTON,
SARA GRIFFITHS, FRAZER HINES, LOUISE JAMESON, JOHN LEESON AND WENDY PADBURY
BBC
DOCTOR WHO
FAITHFUL FRIENDS
BIG FINISH FOR THE LOVE OF STORIES

First up we have THE DYING BREED, in which the Fourth Doctor, Leela and K9 meet the Lupari, our fuzzy friends from DOCTOR WHO: FLUX. It's a snowy medieval epic, encountering our dog-like aliens long before the events of their TV debut. There are warring tribes, rowdy drinking songs, and Leela's attempt at a snowman. To be listened to whilst wrapped up in furs.

And then the box-set ends with 500 WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR LOVER, a wild frenetic piece I've described in Big Finish's Vortex Magazine as a gay rom-com. There will be truth monks and ice skating. And the Eighth Doctor may or may not take his clothes off.

I didn't actually realise these standalone stories were coming out in the same box-set,

so there are zero links between them - unlike Dorney's clever Krillitane duo (I've read one of the scripts for that and let me just say, you are in for a TREAT). Let my two tales stand as a testament to the fact that I love to write for all kinds of genre. *Which Doctor Who author was it who said the Doctor doesn't have adventures in time, but rather adventures in genre? I really need to find out, they are words I live by...*

New tour dates - DRIFTWOOD heads to Scotland!

In my last Substack, there's lots of info on my new theatre show and its touring dates - you can check that out again below. It's going to lots of exciting places, everywhere from Chichester to Manchester...

Driftwood

TIM FOLEY • NOVEMBER 13, 2024

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...but I'm delighted to say we're now stopping over in Edinburgh - we're doing two nights on the Traverse Theatre's main stage! I used to head to the Traverse a lot when I was at uni - it's a writing powerhouse, and I saw new works by the likes of Zinnie Harris and Abi Morgan... I wish I lived close enough to keep sampling its wonderful offerings.

You can get your tickets to DRIFTWOOD in Edinburgh here.

For those of you who can't make any of the stops on this tour - the playscript is getting a reprint, with a new cover and all the scriptual tweaks for the 2025 remount. When that's available to purchase, I'll give you a holler. It'd be wonderful if you could support the project that way.

Current writing projects

I continue to straddle both my audio and theatre horses (they gallop side-by-side ever so majestically). I've got a spooky theatre commission that I'm currently working on, which is a tremendous excuse for all kinds of supernatural viewing.

My favourite film in recent weeks has been 1961's THE INNOCENTS, a glorious haunted house film starring Deborah Kerr. In many ways, it feels way ahead of its time, with its complex themes and understated moments of horror. Recommended.

I'm also working on an original audio series. Just this weekend I finished the first draft of Episode 01, and there's either not enough world-building, or too much. I can never quite tell on the first pass. Luckily one of the joys of writing is all the whittling and battling into shape. This mini-serial due out later in the year, so watch this space. (*Emphasis on 'space', cough cough*)

I just finished answering some interview questions about DOCTOR WHO IN AN EXCITING ADVENTURE WITH HOOKLIGHT so I'll take that as an opportunity to plug my 12-parter again. Go and check out the cover art - another delight by Rafe.

Looking ahead...

What does 2025 have in store? My first DOCTOR WHO story? A couple of game-changing cliffhangers? My favourite 25-minute episode I'll ever write? A haunted house story for the cost-of-living crisis? Maybe a couple of dinosaurs?

Who knows!

Well, I do. But there's plenty I don't know as well. I hope all our 2025s are voyages of discovery. January can be a tough, miserable month, so I'm making sure to go on lots of long walks with the dog, they are good for story pondering. Stay safe and warm and remember the days are getting longer and brighter.

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